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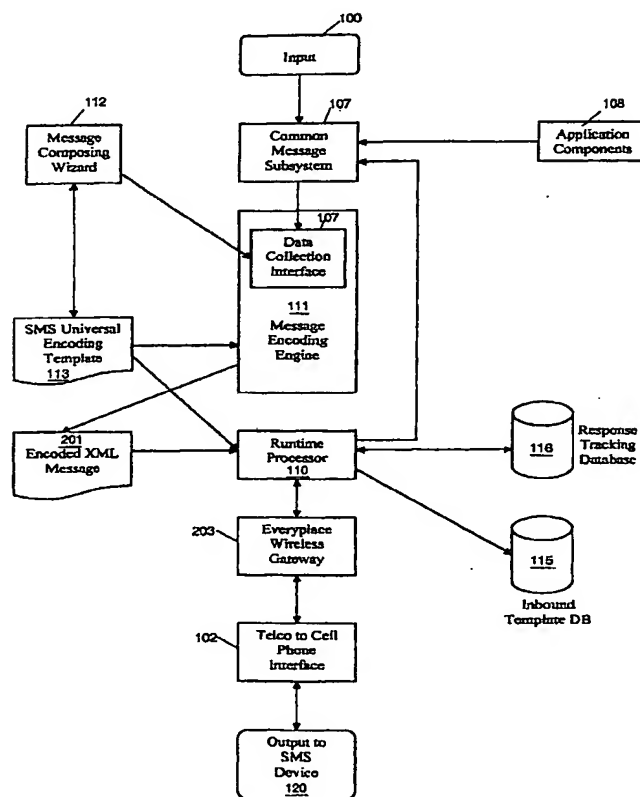
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AN E-COMMERCE MESSAGE USING SMS



STRUCTURAL MAPPING OF SMS COMMERCE
INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENTS

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method for generating an SMS business message for processing by a software application comprising the steps of: a data collection interface accepting outgoing instructions and outgoing data from said software application; a message encoding engine encoding said outgoing instructions and outgoing data from said software application using an encoding template to generate the SMS business message as a categorized SMS message formatted for processing by a data processing system; and a dispatcher runtime processor processing said SMS business message for transmission over a network to a recipient.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

national Application No
PCT/GB 03/04336

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H04Q7/22 G06F17/60 G06F17/60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04Q G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| X | WO 98/42173 A (LAHTI SEPPO ENSIO ; TELAMA SAMI PEKKA (FI); FD FINANSSIDATA OY (FI); L) 1 October 1998 (1998-10-01) page 1, lines 3-5,25-30 page 2, line 4 - page 3, line 19 page 5, lines 18-22 page 6, line 10 - page 10, line 33 claims 1-3 figures 1-3 | 1-23 |
| X | US 6 125 281 A (HUBER ROLF ET AL) 26 September 2000 (2000-09-26) column 3, lines 16-67 column 8, line 55 - column 16, line 7 ----- -/-- | 1-23 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 May 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/06/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB 03/04336

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| X | US 5 719 918 A (SERBETCIOUGLU BEKIR ET AL) 17 February 1998 (1998-02-17) column 3, lines 20-30 column 9, lines 18-23 column 10, lines 19-30 figure 7A column 11, lines 4-40 claim 1 | 1-23 |
| X | WO 01/69436 A (HAEMAELAEINEN MATTI ; CODEONLINE OY (FI); PRIHA ILKKA (FI); KUGGE STEP) 20 September 2001 (2001-09-20) page 2, line 20 - page 3, line 29 figures 2-7 page 7, line 34 - page 8, line 25 page 14, line 28 - page 16, line 31 page 10, line 33 - page 11, line 2 | 1-23 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB 03/04336

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 24-27
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 28
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.1

Claims Nos.: 24-27

Claims 24-27 are directed to the format used for sending a commercial message. This kind of format has however as sole purpose to define the content of the message send via a SMS service (which content furthermore defines only the kind information one could expect to find on business forms of the kind used in banking system or business transaction). The subject-matter of claims 24-27 is therefore only characterised by the way the information is presented to the user, so the subject-matter of these claims falls under the provisions of Article 17 (2) (a) (i) and Rule 39 .1 (v) (mere presentations of the information). Consequently, the International Searching Authority is not required to search these claims.

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 28

Claim 28 does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT in that the matter for which protection is sought is not clearly defined. The claim 28 is defined in such vague and broad terms (i.e. instructions, parsable, data processing) that it leaves the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features to which they refer, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claim unclear (Article 6 PCT). The subject-matter of claim 28 covers any kind of template which comprises some kind of data for providing some kind of instructions to some kind of processing system which is furthermore not part of the subject-matter of the claim.

The only feature characterising therefore the template is the meta data. However, since the content is not specified, any kind of template with meta data like those defined for Internet seems to have the required characteristics for making it suitable for providing some kind of instructions to some kind of processing system. Hence, the subject-matter of claim 28 is also not new with respect to the common knowledge in the field of data processing.

Hence, the wording of the claim 28 on file renders it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought, the present application fails to comply with the clarity requirements of Article 6 PCT to such an extent that a meaningful search is impossible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 03/04336

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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